



BC City Connection

Bi-monthly newsletter for the Battle Creek community

City Manager's Corner with Rebecca Fleury



The holiday season is upon us, and our new City Commission has been seated, with the selection of Mayor Mark Behnke and Vice Mayor Dave Walters. This commission will be in place for the next three years (see more on the back page). Your local government representatives are here to serve you, our neighbors in the City of Battle Creek.

The commission — nine members, including the mayor — is in charge of policy making and legislating. They are responsible for, among other things, passing ordinances and resolutions; making public policy decisions; adopting the budget; appointing boards, commissions, and committees; approving contracts; authorizing real estate transactions; awarding bids; selling property; and hiring the government's manager and attorney.

I hope you see that local government is the branch that is closest to the people. Local government has the privilege of collaborating with scores of talented people on issues that really matter to neighbors.

I encourage you all to get involved! We need more voter participation, we need members for our boards and commissions, and we welcome your comments at City Commission meetings. Please get involved and share your knowledge with us.

Let me also wish you all a happy holiday season. We look forward to continue to serve you in the new year. We take our mission seriously and, together, we can make a difference. I believe in Battle Creek!

City Calendar

For more, visit www.battlecreekmi.gov and www.battlecreekvisitors.org/events.

- **Board of Appeals**, 1 p.m., City Hall: TBD — typically third Wednesday
- **City Commission**, 7:30 p.m., City Hall: Jan. 2, Jan. 16, Feb. 6, Feb. 20
- **Civil Service Commission**, 4 p.m., City Hall: Jan. 22, Feb. 26
- **Dangerous Buildings**, 1 p.m., City Hall: TBD — typically second Wednesday
- **Historic District Commission**, 4 p.m., City Hall: Jan. 8, Feb. 12
- Historic District **petition deadline**: Dec. 20, Jan. 26, Feb. 23
- **Human Relations Board**, 3:30 p.m., City Hall: TBD — typically third Wednesday
- **Planning Commission**, 4 p.m., City Hall: Jan. 24, Feb. 28
- Planning Commission **petition deadline**: Dec. 29, Feb. 2, March 2
- **Police/Fire Retirement System Board**, 10 a.m., City Hall: Jan. 16 (due to Monday holiday), Feb. 20 (due to Monday holiday)
- **Sustainable BC Committee**, 4 p.m., Dept. Public Works: TBD — typically first Wednesday
- **Zoning Board of Appeals**, 4 p.m., City Hall: Jan. 9, Feb. 13
- Zoning Board **petition deadline**: Dec. 15, Jan. 19, Feb. 16
- City offices **CLOSED** for New Year's Day: Jan. 1. Transit bus/van services canceled & Waste Management closed, with one-day delay rest of the week.
- **State of the Community Address**, 7:30 a.m., Jan. 9, Kool Family Community Center. City of Battle Creek & Calhoun County. Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce Eye Opener Breakfast.
- City offices **CLOSED** for Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Jan. 15. Transit bus/van services & Waste Management are open and running on regular schedules.
- City offices **CLOSED** for Presidents Day: Feb. 19. Transit bus/van services & Waste Management are open and running on regular schedules.
- Curbside **fresh Christmas tree pickup**: Dec. 26 to Feb. 2. Place at curb on regular pickup day; remove all decorations.

Please note that some boards and committees, at the time you receive this newsletter, haven't yet approved their 2018 meeting schedules. Dates will be placed on our website calendar as they are approved.

 *Happy Holidays to the City of Battle Creek!*

How to: Report street light outages

If you see a streetlight that is out, please report that directly to Consumers Energy, which operates the street lights in our city.

The easiest way to do that is on the Consumers outages website — on the city's website, battlecreekmi.gov, navigate to the I Want To... tab, then Report a Streetlight Problem. Scroll down to Streetlight Outages to share the information. You can report that the light is burned out, vandalized or broken, or flickering. You also can call Consumers to report this — dial (800) 477-5050, select option 2 for outages, then option 4 to report a streetlight out.





City Hall

10 N. Division St., Battle Creek, MI
49014

www.battlecreekmi.gov

City Manager, 269-966-3378
Fax, 269-966-6654

City Clerk, 269-966-3348

Code Compliance, 269-966-3387

Fire Department administration,
195 E. Michigan Ave., 269-966-3519

Police Department, 20 N. Division
St., 269-966-3322

Non-emergency, 269-781-0911

Department of Public Works, 150
S. Kendall St., 269-966-3343

Recreation/Full Blast Fitness Center,
35 Hamblin Ave., 269-966-3431

Transit, 339 W. Michigan Ave., 269-
966-3474

Utility Billing, 269-966-3366

W.K. Kellogg Airport, 15551 S.
Airport Road, 269-966-3470

City Commission 2017-2020

Mayor Mark Behnke, at-large
269-441-7663

Vice Mayor Dave Walters, Ward 5
269-209-0626

John Griffin, Ward 1
269-358-4756

Lynn Ward Gray, Ward 2
269-830-2456

Kate Flores, Ward 3
269-832-2912

Christopher Simmons, Ward 4
269-274-8993

Susan Baldwin, at-large
269-963-6901

Kaytee Faris, at-large
734-330-6236

Sherry Sofia, at-large
269-967-8272

The BC City Connection is compiled
& designed by Communications
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Connect with us!



City of Battle Creek, Michigan



@BattleCreekCity



City of Battle Creek
Battle Creek Police Department



PublicInput@battlecreekmi.gov
See our website for a full staff directory.



Learn more about city departments and services
on Commissioner Lynn Ward Gray's AccessVision
TV show, *Keeping You Informed*. It appears on
Channels 17 and 917 at 6 p.m. Wednesdays, and
online, accessvision.tv.

December: Year in review/story map

January: Youth Advisory Board

Spotlight on: City Commission

The City Commission for 2017 commission during the Nov. 14
-2020 is now sworn in
and serving.

Mark Behnke, who was
first elected to the
commission in 1991,
and first served as
mayor in 2000, will
serve again as mayor for the
coming year.

Dave Walters, who was first
appointed to the commission in
2010, elected in 2011, and first
served as mayor in 2013, will
serve as vice mayor for the
coming year.

The city's nine commissioners
were elected and re-elected
during the Nov. 7 election.
Behnke and Walters were
chosen by votes of the new



organizational meeting.

All commissioners will serve
three-year terms, because the
previous commission approved
moving city elections from odd
to even years going forward.
Starting in 2020, terms will
return to two years.

The commission meets at 7
p.m. every first and third
Tuesday of the month at City
Hall, 10 N. Division St. Three
exceptions are April 10, moved

for spring break; Aug. 14, moved
for the primary election; and Nov.
13, moved for the general election.

Contact commissioners by phone
using this newsletter. On our
website, battlecreekmi.gov, con-
tact any or all commissioners using
an email form under I Want To...
and Contact. Here you can also
view a list of contact information,
including address, phone number,
and email.

To locate your voting ward, to
determine which ward
commissioner represents you,
navigate online to Your
Government — Departments —
Geographic Information Systems
— Maps.

Questions? Contact the City
Manager's Office at 269-966-3378.

City Hall building work — façade & retaining wall

You may have noticed the
chain-link fence that was
installed this fall around parts
of City Hall.

The structural engineers
assessing the building façade
directed that for safety
reasons. They have done some
temporary waterproofing on
the building, and their
assessment report is
forthcoming.

The tunnel at the east entrance
will remain; the engineers
determined that a tunnel is not
necessary at the west entrance.

City Hall is 104 years old and,
with that, comes wear and
tear. Along with façade
damage, we also are

investigating
water damage
to the
building's
surrounding
retaining wall.

With help from a landscape
engineer, we have several
options to replace the damaged
wall. Here are a few:

1. Remove the entire wall
and replace it with a
typical landscape block-
type wall. This is the least
expensive, but does not
preserve the historic
value.
2. Replace the west wall on
the Division Street side
with a pre-cast wall that



looks similar to what's there
now, remove the rest of the
wall on the south side, and re-
grade the lawn. This middle-
cost option has less future
maintenance cost, and
preserves a portion of the wall
for historic value.

3. Remove the entire wall and
replace with a pre-cast wall that
looks similar. This is the most
expensive option, but preserves
the historic value of the entire
wall.

Staff have specifications for each of
these options, for anyone interested.

Have thoughts on how we should
proceed? Please let us know at
PublicInput@battlecreekmi.gov or
269-966-3355, ext. 1351.